

Remarks

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful examination of this application and the clear explanation of the rejections.

The amended title is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The amended abstract is now an adequate and clear statement of the contents of the disclosure.

The new claims "particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the applicant regards as his invention."

Independent claim 2 defines a process of initializing the state of an output memory circuit of a scan cell located at the boundary of a logic circuit within an integrated circuit.

The process scans data into an input memory circuit of the cell while maintaining the cell in a first mode providing normal operation of the logic circuit.

The process places the cell in a second mode that disables normal operation of the logic circuit.

The process transfers the data scanned into the input memory circuit into the output memory circuit simultaneous with the placing the cell in a mode that disables normal operation of the logic circuit.

In contrast, US 5,675,544 to Hashimoto discloses a method and apparatus for parallel testing of memory circuits.

In operation, the test circuitry 18 is operable to store data read from the memory cell array 16 responsive to the test signals without outputting the data. The data may be selectively output from the memory circuit 14 responsive to the test signals. This aspect of the invention is described in greater detail in connection with FIGS. 5 and 6. Column 2, lines 60-65

The Hashimoto patent teaches testing memory cell arrays by storing test data in a data register 20 for later output from a tri-state buffer 28.

The present claim 2 requires process steps to be performed in a scan cell, which is not disclosed in the Hashimoto patent. Claim 2 thus distinguishes over the disclosure in the Hashimoto patent and is patentable.

The application is in allowable form and the claims distinguish over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration or further examination of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lawrence J. Bassuk
Reg. No. 29,043
Attorney for Applicant

Texas Instruments Incorporated
P. O. Box 655474, MS 3999
Dallas, Texas 75265
972-917-5458